

Message Text

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SUBJ: GOM: WHAT LOCKHEED SCANDAL?

REF: A. MEXICO 1579, B. MEXICO 1830,

1. MEXICAN OFFICIALS, IN PUBLIC AT LEAST, FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT CONCERNING ALLEGED PAYOFFS BY LOCKHEED TO FOREIGN OFFICIALS. AS DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL INFLUENTIAL DAILY EXCELSIOR BROKE THE STORY IN MEXICO, PUBLISHING THE NAMES OF TWO RETIRED MEXICAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS ALLEGEDLY BRIBED BY LOCKHEED AND HINTING THAT OTHER OFFICIALS (AND EVEN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE PRESIDENCY) MIGHT BE INVOLVED. VIRTUALLY THE ONLY GOM REACTION TO THE STORY HAS BEEN THE BRIEF COMMENTS OF SECDEF CUENCA DIAZ (IN EFFECT: THIS IS A U.S. PROBLEM; THE MEXICAN MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT IS "CLEAN").

2. THE MEXICAN PRESS HAS BEEN UNWILLING TO FORGET THIS INTERESTING STORY BUT HAS PRUDENTLY) FOCUSED ITS ATTENTION ON THE LOCKHEED ISSUE IN OTHER COUNTRIES. STILL, SOME EDITORIALISTS -- AND PARTICULARLY EXCELSIOR -- HAVE CONTINUED TO INSIST (IN CAREFULLY CHOSEN WORDS) ON THE NEED FOR INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGATIONS AGAINST MEXICAN OFFICIALS.

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3. THE MOST RECENT OFFICIAL COMMENT ON LOCKHEED WAS

THAT (FEBRUARY 20) OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES LEADER CARLOS SANSORES PEREZ. HE THOUGHT THAT "AN INVESTIGATION WOULD NOT SUIT (NO CONVIENE) THE PEOPLE'S INTERESTS". MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE LOCKHEED STORY, HE WENT ON, WAS A RECENT SPEECH BY PRI PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE LOPEZ PORTILLO CALLING FOR "CONGRUENCE OF WORD AND DEED".

5. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF LOPEZ PORTILLO'S REPEATED ATTACKS ON CORRUPTION IN MEXICO, JLP'S "CONGRUENCE" SPEECH MIGHT WELL SUPPORT THE ARGUMENT FOR INVESTIGATION INTO THE LOCKHEED ALLEGATIONS; SANSORES PEREZ' LOGIC ESCAPES US. IT ALSO ESCAPED THE EDITORIALIST OF ULTIMAS NOTICIAS (EXCELSIOR'S AFTERNOON EDITION) WHO FEBRUARY 23 ARGUED THAT WHILE AN INVESTIGATION WOULD SUIT NEITHER LOCKHEED NOR ANY MEXICANS INVOLVED, IT WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE MEXICAN PUBLIC.

5. THE FAILURE OF THE GOM TO ADDRESS THIS ISSUE, LENDS CREDENCE, OF COURSE, TO THE ALLEGATIONS AND ILLUSTRATES ONCE MORE WHY MEXICANS ARE SO FREQUENTLY SKEPTICAL OF OFFICIAL GOM STATEMENTS.

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